

JOB CORPS

PARTNERSHIPS THAT WORK

Region IV

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Treasure Lake Joins Job Corps' 40th Anniversary Celebration

Treasure Lake Job Corps Civilian Conservation Center, Indianahoma, Oklahoma, joined with representatives from 27 other civilian conservation centers and hundreds of guests to celebrate the 40th Anniversary of Job Corps September 10, 11, and 12, 2004. The celebration was held in the Asheville, North Carolina area with events at the Schenck, LBJ, and Oconoluftee Job Corps Centers. Rose Mary Kern, Treasure Lake Center Director, participated as a

member of the planning committee for this special celebration. Attending the event with Mrs. Kern were her husband Peter, Student Government Association President Amanda Phillips, SGA Vice President Chris Penry, Business Office Technology student Chambresha Taylor, and staff members Randy Thompson and Pat Reffett. Mr. Dan Tucker, President of the Treasure Lake Community Relations Council, and his wife, Pat, also attended.

The activities included training for SGA presidents, networking for staff and students, and a reunion of past, present, and future leaders of the Job Corps program. On the agenda were programs and tours at LBJ on Friday and Oconoluftee on Saturday. Each of the 28 centers operated information booths at Schenck during the three-day event. Several honored guests were introduced at a program on Saturday evening. They spoke with strength

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Carville's "Gold" Standard

To help students learn about and appreciate the values of community service, leadership, and teamwork, Carville Job Corps Academy has established a "Gold Card" system for students who display excellence in these areas.

The Center Gold Card system consists of three tiers: Basic, Gold, and Gold/Platinum. Moving from one tier to another is dependent upon such variables as length of stay in program, positive event reports, community service, evaluation of student progress, behavior, appearance, attitude, and contribution to center life.

All new students start out at the "Basic" level and are encouraged to "Go for the Gold." Some of the requirements to get to the "Gold" tier are: minimum 60 days on

center, community service – 20 hours, center service – 20 hours, and no negative write ups.

Some of the incentives of reaching the "Gold" level include: "Gold" ID card (instead of regular khaki), recreation trip, live in a "Gold" room in the dormitory which has a computer (with broadband Internet access), refrigerator and microwave, collared logo shirt, passes for 2 weekends a month, and 10-minute phone usage.

To reach the "Gold/Platinum" plateau, a student must have at least 6 months in a Leadership position, 40 hours of community service and 40 hours center service, no negative write ups, and have been a "Gold" tier holder for one continuous year. "Gold/Platinum" benefits are the same as in the "Gold" level plus an

extra five minutes phone usage, a recreation trip every two months, a logo watch, and getting to be first in line to get paid.

All members of the staff at Carville Job Corps Academy are encouraged to help all students in any way they can to achieve the "Gold" or "Gold/Platinum" tier. Not only will the student's experience here at Carville Job Corps Academy be beneficial to any of their future educational or vocational pursuits, it should also enrich the community in which that particular student resides.

Carville Job Corps Academy has a goal of moving 40 students to the "Gold" level this year in honor of Job Corps 40th anniversary.



Employment and
Training Administration

JOB CORPS News

HARD WORK AND SMILEY-FACES

Unless it is based in reality, optimism can be risky business.

By Dean Christopher



Years ago, I dined with friends who were hosting relatives from Florida. Over dessert, one woman began raving about the brilliance of dolphins – they are just as intelligent as we are, she insisted. And they love humans. “Dolphins help sailors whose ships sink. They push them toward shore. Many rescued sailors have said so.”

There was a brief silence while we absorbed this heartwarming information. Then our host spoke. “Of course we never hear from the sailors they push farther out to sea.”

Everyone laughed, but the lesson was clear: it is unwise to make optimistic generalizations from a few isolated cases. Yet much of what we believe – therefore much of what we do – is based on hearsay, superstition, or wishful thinking. This is irrational. It can mislead us with false hopes or unreasonable expectations that later bring disappointment.

Scientific method is based on elements that are repeatable under controlled conditions. Since it's unlikely that scientists will shipwreck thousands of sailors to test what dolphins really do with them, dolphins' “love for humans” must remain a charming anecdote. But we don't need rigorous analysis by teams of PhDs to identify reality – just common sense and normal eyesight. The problem is whether we choose to face that reality or deny it.

Examples of denial are two smiley-face maxims that are widely repeated in our optimistic society: “You can do anything you

want if you want it badly enough,” and “It's never too late.”

Neither statement is true.

We can not do “anything we want.” “Anything” is an unlimited category. And “wanting it badly enough” is irrelevant. What is relevant is knowing what is reasonable to want – and wanting that badly enough to work hard for it. It must constantly be emphasized to Job Corps students that without hard work – academic, vocational and social – they're unlikely to accomplish anything worthwhile, let alone “anything they want.” No amount of wishing or hoping will do the trick.

Reality is also a matter of natural inclination and ability. Some people don't have certain talents, timing, or influential friends. Or there may be physical or social impediment issues. It's important to recognize limitations and work within them – which still leaves a whole universe of possibilities!

Sometimes it is too late. Don't begin ballet lessons at 35 and expect a glittering career pirouetting on the world's stages. Human legs just don't work that way. And nowadays, many careers require major education credentials – a major investment of time and effort. So it can quickly become too late for advanced degrees.

This underscores the need for two things:

- Realistic self-appraisal.
- Acting quickly and decisively to get basic education credentials and vocational training.

Without a foundation, no skyscraper can stand. Job Corps must emphasize the urgency of taking life seriously – today. Opportunity slips farther away every minute, until

suddenly it's too late to catch up.

Now for the good news: In most marketplaces, promising young candidates are often hired before older (even more experienced) candidates. Employers know that young people – when sufficiently prepared and motivated – are excellent workers. They are less opinionated, more malleable, more inclined to work harder and longer with youthful enthusiasm.

The Job Corps challenge is to energize students, build their self-esteem, and reveal the wonders of which they are capable – while keeping them focused on reality. This isn't easy, but who says that students are the only ones around here who should work hard?

In the world beyond infomercials and feel-good motivational seminars, dreams don't come true until we make them come true. Students must understand that until they face the reality of persistent hard work, they have no right to complain if they don't get the career – and the life – they think they deserve.

Are there exceptions? Sure. Some people luck out. They marry money. Or win the lottery. But it's idiotic to gamble the future on long shots. Although positive thinking feels great, it accomplishes very little without positive action. Dreams motivate; only doing can make things happen.

Each month thousands of dolphins drown in fishermen's nets. Most people passionately wish that didn't happen. But only a fisherman's individual effort can actually free them, and push them safely back out to sea.

A Pocket Full of Hope

On September 7, 2004, Tulsa Job Corps' construction students put on their hard hats, strapped on their “lucky” tool belts, and provided the center's Community Relations Partner, “A Pocket Full of Hope” with some much needed assistance. A Pocket Full of Hope had just opened its doors to their new facility entitled, “Hopeville Mansion” a week

earlier, but unfortunately still had a lot of unfinished interior work that needed to be done. Tulsa JCC's construction students replaced baseboards around the mansion and assisted with other carpentry requests. A Pocket Full of Hope is an organization that is geared toward providing Tulsa community children opportunities to explore their dreams

in the areas of music, theatre, and art. The organization also has an after school program with some tutoring classes available.

The Hopeville Mansion is a 50-year-old two-story house that was restored to serve as the new headquarters for A Pocket Full of Hope in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

JOB CORPS News

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and emotion about the history of Job Corps and the efforts of many people to get the Job Corps program off the ground and keep it going despite opposition. They also spoke of the civilian conservation centers, gave the names of all past and present directors of those centers, and the years he/she served in that capacity. Treasure Lake has had seven Center Directors since its opening in 1965. The highlight for Treasure Lake staff and students attending this dedication was that four of those seven were present for the 40th

Celebration: Royce Robinson (1974-1996), Henry Martinez (1996-1999), Vera Ford (1999-2000), and Rose Mary Kern (2000 to present).

The Sunday celebration included remarks by Secretary of Agriculture Ann M. Veneman and Job Corps National Director Grace A. Kilbane. The event was concluded with a terrific meal of barbeque with all the trimmings and birthday cake. Treasure Lake Job Corps Civilian Conservation Center was a proud participant in this historic event. We

salute the hard work and dedication of the planning committee that made this celebration a success. We applaud the students and staff at Schenck Job Corps Center for their determination to overcome tremendous obstacles presented by flooding on Tuesday before the celebration. We offer our gratitude to those who shared their stories about laying the foundation and to all those who continue to build the Job Corps program so that young men and women have the opportunity to succeed.

Ask Arla

Dear Arla,

I noticed that the next newsletter issue is due out November/December. How much center activity can be posted when the students are spending time with their families and loved ones over Christmas break?

K.P. – Texas

Dear K.P.,

Excellent observation! The next newsletter will be a tribute to the 2004 Region IV

Academic Olympics. Along with the list of winners we will be asking centers to submit information about their team's experience at this year's event. Additionally, we would like to get information or articles about the winners and what they plan to do with their scholarships. We think this is an excellent way to promote the games! So please be sure to send us your articles about the Academic Olympics prior to leaving on Winter/Christmas break!

All articles, information, Letters to the Editor, and Ask Arla letters for the Volume 5 Issue 5 newsletter are due by **Mon., Dec. 13, 2004** to:

Arla de Hoyos

922 S. Alamo

San Antonio, TX 78205

210.226.2827 phone

210.226.6827 fax

rla@cuttingedgesa.com

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor:

In a previous newsletter, you answered a question regarding OMS Measures and gave an explanation as why some are model-based. For the life of me I cannot locate that issue; can you rerun the explanation? –

- Looking for Past Issues

Dear Looking for Past Issues,

We most certainly can rerun the column. Please see it below as it ran originally in August 2003.

Dear Editor:

Can you explain why some OMS measures are model-based and others aren't?

- Confused by OMS Measures

Dear Confused by OMS Measures,

Just to give you some background, the Outcome Measurement System (OMS) is

utilized by Job Corps to assess the effectiveness of center operators, outreach and admissions agencies, placement agencies, and vocational training programs through these reports:

- Center Report Card OMS – 10
- Outreach & Admissions Report Card OAOMS – 10
- Career Transition Services Report Card POMS – 10
- Vocational Evaluation System Report VES – 10

Each measurement system uses a report card based on three elements:

1. The specific measures included in the system
2. The goals established for each measure
3. The weights assigned to each measure in the overall system

To answer your question, some measures consist of goals established by

national goals and are the same across the board. For other measures, the goals are model-based and are understanding of varied operator conditions.

The main reason for using models to set individualized center goals is to "level the playing field" by adjusting for differences in key factors that are beyond the operator's control. A model helps to ensure fairness by recognizing that an operator's actual performance on a given outcome measure depends not only on management practices, but also on the abilities of the students and characteristics of its operating environment. For example, through a model-based approach, centers that serve students that are placed in high-wage labor markets would be assigned a higher graduate average initial wage goal than centers that serve students that are mainly placed in low-wage labor markets.

Collbran

Congratulations Collbran Job Corps Center! In recognition for the center's continued outstanding support of the Special Olympics program over the past several years, Mesa County Special Olympics has nominated Collbran Job Corps for a national award from the United States Special Olympics Committee.

Gary

Gary Job Corps' Lions Club recently raised over \$1,100 to help Florida's hurricane victims with a "Donate a Dollar" collection. Students and staff contributed to the collection, part of which was collected by Lions Club members at the center's front gate. Student members of the affiliated Leos Club and the center's Student Ambassadors coordinated the collection of donations from students. The money will reach Florida via the Lions Clubs International Foundation, which has a fund established for Florida's hurricane victims. The foundation allocates money for distribution through Florida Lions Clubs. Gary is the only Job Corps center out of 120 throughout the United States that has a Lions Club for staff and a Leo Club for its students. The Lions Club was established almost four years ago. It regularly organizes community outreach projects to assist groups and organizations in San Marcos, and in surrounding Hays and Caldwell counties. "I am very proud of our Lions and Leo clubs," says Center Director Curtis Price, Jr. "They are enthusiastic people who reflect the true spirit of volunteerism with their desire to make the community a better place. I am especially pleased that we have a Leos Club for our students, which allows them to become involved in volunteer projects."

Guthrie

Guthrie Job Corps planned a Military Career Fair for late October to celebrate United States military members and promote a sense of national pride and patriotism in the local community. This event allowed Guthrie JCC students to learn about career opportunities in the military and interact with those currently employed in the service of their nation. Both staff and students shared their overwhelming sense of respect and pride for

the men and women who help keep our nation safe. "Job Corps has a long-standing relationship with the military and this day recognizes the ongoing national partnership," said Kathleen Treanor, event organizer for Guthrie JCC. Center Director, Priscilla Mayberry added, "This center is very appreciative of the support and assistance of our military recruiters."

North Texas

2004 marks the 40th anniversary of Job Corps training youth in skills needed by businesses. This milestone highlights the contributions that the Job Corps program has made to the workforce, to youth, and to our communities. The North Texas Job Corps Center recently held a 40th Anniversary Kick-Off program highlighting these achievements. Center Director, Rich Abbott, along with Student Government Association's Executive Committee presented a program highlighting Job Corps' 40 years. The program included guest speakers and student performers. In addition, City of McKinney Mayor Pro Tem, Brian Loughmiller presented Job Corps with a proclamation declaring September 29th as North Texas Job Corps 40th Anniversary Day.



Pictured (l-r): Demon Shelby, North Texas Job Corps Student Government Vice President, shaking hands with Brian Loughmiller Mayor Pro Temp for the City of McKinney, Texas.

Shreveport

Congratulations to Artis Byrd, Jr., Diane Dotson-Alexander, Booker T. Jones, Gennevieve C. Mosley, and Franklin Hill for 25 years of faithful employment to the Shreveport Job Corps Center! These staff members have been employed on center since it opened within the Queensborough neighborhood in June 1979. Each of these dedicated employees received a proclama-

tion from the President/White House, the Governor's office, the U.S. Senate's office, the State's Senate office, the House of Representatives' office, the Shreveport Mayor's office, and a plaque from the center in honor of their service for the past 25 years.

Treasure Lake

On Wednesday, October 6, 2004, Treasure Lake Job Corps Civilian Conservation Center conducted a voter registration drive. The event was sponsored by Treasure Lake with the help of the Lawton League of Women Voters. League member Cheryle Sherman is an employee at Treasure Lake and was instrumental in helping 40 students register to vote. All of the students registered will be voting in Oklahoma elections for the first time and this will be the first Presidential election for most of the new voters. All of the students expressed interest and excitement about the upcoming elections. The center will provide transportation for these students and others previously registered to the polling site in Meers on Election Day. "We have had two candidates for public office (Brad Carson in May and Randy Bass in September) visit our center and this makes our students more aware of the election process. Both gentlemen toured our center and made motivational comments, rather than campaign speeches. But our students had the opportunity to meet people who might be elected to make decisions at the state and national level which will impact their futures," stated Rose Mary Kern, Center Director.

Tulsa

Tulsa Job Corps' Student Government Association Treasurer, Caleb Morris, was selected to partake in a work-based learning experience at Senator Don Nickles Office.

The work-based learning assignment was for one week, from September 14 to September 21, 2004. Not only was Senator Nickles' staff impressed with his excellent Business Office Technology skills that he displayed while assisting them in the office, they also expressed how he consistently demonstrated great employability and social skills, and how well he was able to answer questions that they had about the Job Corps Program.